

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ramсар](#)
Subject: Protect the wetlands of Westernport from AGL's proposed gas terminal
Date: Sunday, 24 November 2019 9:55:46 AM

I was disappointed to see that the very important environmental area of Westernport Bay could be developed in such a way. My husband and I have been bird watching in this area for over thirty years. It plays a crucial role in the lives of migratory birds. If this area is disturbed, where do they go? They have nowhere to go. They can't just find somewhere else. All around the world areas for migratory birds are being cleared and developed with large declines in many species. Please show more forethought in this matter.

Australia has one of the worst extinction rates in the world.
Please reconsider this development in such an important area.

Wetlands play a vital role in the functioning of global ecosystems, from migratory bird and fish breeding to storing carbon from the atmosphere. Victoria is blessed to have diverse wetland environments, all with unique characteristics, plants, animals, fish and insects.

While I look forward to following the work of this committee with regard to all Ramsar wetlands in our beautiful state, I'm writing to make a submission focused on the wetlands in Westernport Bay.

I am deeply concerned by the current AGL proposal to bring a Floating Storage and Regasification ship to Westernport Bay. I feel this ship presents a real threat to Westernport's fragile mangrove ecosystem. This is the most southerly mangrove system in the world and is home to threatened migratory birds like the Eastern Curlew.

I am concerned about AGL's proposal for two key reasons.

First, I'm worried about the proposed ship's direct impact on the mangroves, fish, birds and other life in the bay as a result of being permanently parked in the bay and dumping cooled and chlorinated water. I'm also worried about increased boat traffic to fill the ship, and the impact this may have on marine animals like whales.

Second, at a time when the impacts of climate change are more and more felt, I'm deeply troubled that our state is considering a new fossil fuel project, let alone in a sensitive and precious mangrove wetland. I cannot understand the need for Victoria to consider importing gas, when we should instead be supporting households, business and industry to transition to renewable energy alternatives.

Thank you for the opportunity to make the committee aware of my concerns about the proposed AGL ship and also to share my passion for wetland conservation across Victoria.

I look forward to great outcomes for our wetlands as a result of this inquiry.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely,
Lynne Billing

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Please reply to Lynne Billing [REDACTED]

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